CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A method for associating a file type of a file with one or more programs, the method comprising the steps of:
   receiving a request to store in a configuration store file type association information;
   determining from the request an application program to be associated with a file type in the configuration store; and
   writing to the configuration store an association of the file type with a chooser tool.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises intercepting the request by one of a user mode hooking mechanism, a kernel mode hooking mechanism, a file system filter driver, and a mini-driver.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises updating an entry of a file type association in the configuration store.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises creating a new entry of a file type association in the configuration store.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the chooser tool provides a user interface listing one or more application programs to invoke to access a file associated with the file type.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: providing an association of the application program with the file type in a chooser tool configuration store.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration store comprises the chooser tool configuration store.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration store comprises a registry database.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

   (e)   selecting a file associated with the file type to invoke an application program, and invoking the chooser tool in response to selecting the file.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(f) displaying by the chooser tool a list of one or more application programs associated with the file type.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(g) invoking, by the chooser tool, a selected application program in one of a system scope, an application isolation scope, and a user isolation scope.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the application program, the file, the configuration store, and the chooser tool are associated with one of a system scope, an application isolation scope, and a user isolation scope within an isolation environment.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the chooser tool is the default application program associated with the file type.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising associating a second file type with the chooser tool in the configuration store.

15. A method for invoking an application program associated with a file type, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a file to invoke an application program, the file associated with a file type;

obtaining, in response to selecting the file, a reference to a chooser tool associated with the file type from a configuration store, the configuration store comprising file type association information;

invoking the chooser tool in response to selecting the file, the chooser tool displaying a list of one or more application programs to access the selected file.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein step (a) further comprises selecting the file to invoke the application program by clicking on the file one or more times.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) further comprises obtaining a list of one or more application programs associated with the file type of the selected file from a chooser tool configuration store.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein step (c) further comprises the chooser tool displaying at least one of the one or more application programs associated with the file type obtained from the chooser tool configuration store.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the configuration store comprises the chooser tool configuration store.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the configuration store comprises a registry database.

21. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

(d) invoking an application program selected from the list displayed by the chooser tool.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising invoking the selected application program in one of a system scope, application isolation scope and a user isolation scope.

23. The method of claim 15, wherein one of the application program, the file, the configuration store and the chooser tool are associated with one of a system scope, an application isolation scope, and a user isolation scope within an isolation environment.

24. The method of claim 15, wherein the chooser tool is the default application program associated with the file type in the configuration store.

25. A system for invoking a program associated with a file type, the system comprising:

a redirector obtaining a request to store file type association information in a configuration store, and determining from the request a file type to be associated with an application program in the configuration store;

a chooser tool configured to provide a selection of one or more application programs to invoke for accessing a file associated with the file type; and

the redirector writing to the configuration store to associate the file type with the chooser tool.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the redirector comprises one of the following to intercept the request: a user mode hooking mechanism, a kernel mode hooking mechanism, a file system filter driver, and a mini-driver.

27. The system of claim 25, wherein the chooser tool comprises a user interface to display the selection of the one or more application programs.

28. The system of claim 25, comprising a chooser tool configuration store for storing an entry associating the file type with the application program of the request.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the redirector initiates an action to write the entry to the chooser tool configuration store.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein the configuration store comprises the chooser tool configuration store.

31. The system of claim 25, wherein the configuration store comprises a registry database.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein the chooser tool displays at least one application program associated with the file type obtained from the chooser tool configuration store.

33. The system of claim 25, wherein the chooser tools invokes an application program selected from the list.

34. The system of claim 25, comprising an isolation environment for isolating access by the application program to native resources provided by an operating system.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the isolation environment comprises one of a system scope, an application isolation scope, and a user isolation scope.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein one of the system scope, the application isolation scope, and the user isolation scope comprises one of the application program, the file, the configuration store, and the chooser tool.

37. The system of claim 35, wherein the chooser tool invokes the selected application program in one of the system scope, the application isolation scope, and the user isolation scope